

PATENT



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Joseph Phillip Bigus et al.

Art Unit: 2762

Serial No.: 09/100,595

Examiner: Wilbert L. Starks, Jr.

Filed: June 19, 1998

Atty. Docket No.: IBM/04B

For: OPTIMIZING THE PERFORMANCE OF COMPUTER TASKS USING
INTELLIGENT AGENT WITH MULTIPLE PROGRAM MODULES HAVING
VARIED DEGREES OF DOMAIN KNOWLEDGE (AS AMENDED)

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Box NON-FEE AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated April 1, 1999, the following amendments and remarks are provided:

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 46, 61 and 75 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 30, 47-49, 62-64 and 76-77 as follows:

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Group 2700

1 30. (Once Amended) A program product comprising:
2 (a) a program configured to perform a computer task using an intelligent agent,
3 the program comprising an intelligent agent including at least one of a plurality of
4 program modules having varied degrees of [domain knowledge]-autonomy, wherein the
5 plurality of program modules are each configured to handle a common computer task that
6 includes conducting negotiations in an electronic commerce application, and wherein,
7 based upon an objective criteria, at least one selected program module from the plurality
8 of program modules is selected to handle the computer task; and
9 (b) a signal bearing media bearing the program.